Uneconomical Branches of Railways

3016. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of uneconomical branch lines in the country;

(b) what is the total loss incurred due to these uneconomical branch lines;

(c) whether Government propose to close down or dismantle some of these lines, if so, what are these lines; and

(d) what steps Government propose to solve this problem?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As many as 138 branch lines were found uneconomic during 1986-87.

(b) The loss suffered on these branch lines during 1986-87 was about Rs. 81 crores.

(c) Out of these 138 branch lines, following have been closed:—

(i) Nidamangalam-Mannargudi

(ii) Sahebpur-Kamal-Monghyrghat

(iii) Kunkavav-Derdi

(iv) Hadmatiya-Jodiya

(v) Khambaliya-Salaya

(vi) Than-Chotila

(vii) Ningala-Gadhadha-Swaminarayan.

(d) Various steps like replacement of passenger trains by Mixed trains, introduction of 'One Engine Only' system, economy in staff, curbing ticketless travel, closure of unremunerative stations/halts or converting them into contractor operated halts, etc. have been taken to reduce the losses.

Display of Photograph of Private Bus Drivers under Delhi Transport Corporation

3017. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instructions have been issued to the private buses operating under DTC to display the photograph of authorised drivers, phone numbers of complaint cell and bus number inside the bus;

(b) if so, how many such buses on route numbers 623, 640 and 660 have complied with those instructions;

(c) whether any special programme is proposed to be launched to infuse discipline in the DTC;

(d) whether the antecedents of the DTC staff are verified at the time of recruitment; and

(e) what steps are being taken to ensure recruitment of decent and civilised crew in the DTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 6 private owned buses on route No. 623, 2 private buses on route No. 640 and 4 private buses on route No. 660 operating under DTC. According to information furnished by D.T.C., all of them are complying with these instructions.

(c) Special checking squads in addition to motor cycle squads keep a continuous watch on all aspects of operations, including display of photograph of the driver of the P.O. bus. The defaulters are suitably punished.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Besides verification of antecedents through police authorities, it has been decided to recruit the crew from different States/UTs of the country with a view to broad base recruitment of drivers and conductors in DTC. The DTC have also initiated

training/refreshers training programmes which includes behaviourial aspects of the trainees.

Bandh Notice Served by National Coordination Committee

3018. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Coordination Committee for All India Transport has given a call for indefinite countrywide road transport bandh from 31st March, 1988;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to avoid this Bandh; and

(c) what are the demands of this National Coordination Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The demands of the National Coordination Committee of All India Motor Transport Congress are (i) import of tyres under Open General Licenec; (ii) roll-back of tyre prices and making mandatory the embossing of retail selling price on tyres/tubes; (iii) rationalisation and uniformity of price of High Speed Diesel in the country, (iv) reduction of cumulative burden of Central and States duties & taxes on road transport. The demands have been brought to the notice of Ministry of Industry and Finance which are the concerned Ministries with regard to pricing and taxation in tyre Industry.

Schools Covered under Operation Black-Board

3019. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of schools covered under the programme "Operation Black Board" during the last two years;

(b) What was the level of enrolment before the introduction of this programme in thses schools and

(c) what is the present level of enrolment after the introduction of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The scheme of Operation Blackboard started in 1987-88. The target coverage in all primary schools is 20 per cent of blocks/municipal areas in 1987-88; 30 per cent in 88-89 and 50 per cent in 89-90.

(b) and (c) The enrolment data available with the Ministry pertains to the year 1985-86 which is given below:

Boys	5.17	crores
Girls	3.48	crores
TOTAL	8.65	crores

New ticketing agencies in the LA.

3020. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new ticketing agencies appointed by the Indian Airlines during the last five years;

(b) the number of these new agencies which are approved for Hyderabad;

(c) what are the detail of these new agencies; and

(d) what are the criteria adopted in appointing these new agencies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Since 1-1-1983 till date, 80 agents have been appointed by Indian Airlines at various cities in India.

(b) and (c) Out of 80 agents, 3 agents have been appointed in